IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

transmitting stored pixel <u>color</u> data from a computer memory to a video RAM;

identifying protected pixel <u>color</u> data within the stored pixel <u>color</u> data;

modifying least significant bits of stored pixel <u>color</u> data prior to its being received by the video RAM;

after an instruction to copy pixel <u>color</u> data from the video RAM is received, recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel <u>color</u> datum, based on least significant bits of the pixel <u>color</u> datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations; and

replacing individual pixel <u>color</u> datum that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **1** wherein pixel <u>color</u> data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said modifying sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel <u>color</u> data.

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **1** further comprising rendering pixel <u>color</u> data in the video RAM on a video display device.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **4** wherein said modifying generates modified pixel <u>color</u> data that is visually similar to the stored pixel <u>color</u> data, when rendered on the video display device.

6. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **1** wherein the pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM by a screen capture command.

7. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **1** wherein the pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM by a command to copy screen data to a clipboard.

8. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **1** wherein the protected pixel <u>color</u> data is pixel <u>color</u> data for at least one protected digital image.

9. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim **8** further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

10. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **1** wherein the substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum is encrypted pixel <u>color</u> datum.

11. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **10** further comprising decoding encrypted <u>color</u> pixel data.

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **1** wherein the stored pixel <u>color</u> data is encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.

13. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **12** further comprising decoding encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.

14. (Currently Amended)   A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a first data bus in which stored pixel <u>color</u> data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM;

a second data bus in which pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory;

a digital filter identifying protected pixel <u>color</u> data within the stored pixel <u>color</u> data, and modifying least significant bits of stored pixel <u>color</u> data prior to its arrival at the video RAM on the first data bus; and

a pixel processor recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel <u>color</u> datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel <u>color</u> datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations, and replacing individual pixel <u>color</u> datum that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum, after an instruction to copy pixel <u>color</u> data from the video RAM is received.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **14** wherein pixel <u>color</u> data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said digital filter sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel <u>color</u> data.

17. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **14** further comprising a video display device for rendering pixel <u>color</u> data in the video RAM.

18. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **17** wherein said digital filter generates modified pixel <u>color</u> data that is visually similar to the stored pixel <u>color</u> data, when rendered on the video display device.

19. (Original)   The system of claim **14** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are distinct data busses.

20. (Original)   The system of claim **14** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are the same data bus.

21. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **14** wherein the protected pixel <u>color</u> data is <u>color</u> pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

22. (Original) The system of claim **21** further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **14** wherein the substitute pixel color datum is encrypted pixel color datum.

24. Currently Amended) The system of claim **23** further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted pixel color data.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **14** wherein the stored pixel color data is encrypted stored pixel color data.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **25** further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted stored pixel color data.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

transmitting stored pixel color data from a computer memory to a video RAM;

identifying protected pixel color data within the stored pixel color data; and

modifying least significant bits of stored pixel color data prior to its being received by the video RAM, thereby generating modified pixel color data within which individual pixel locations are recognizable as having protected or unprotected pixel color datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel color datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **27** wherein pixel <u>color</u> data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said modifying sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel <u>color</u> data.

30. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **27** further comprising rendering pixel <u>color</u> data in the video RAM on a video display device.

31. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **30** wherein said modifying generates modified pixel <u>color</u> data that is visually similar to the stored pixel <u>color</u> data, when rendered on the video display device.

32. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **27** wherein the protected pixel <u>color</u> data is pixel <u>color</u> data for at least one protected digital image.

33. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim **32** further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

34. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **27** wherein the stored pixel <u>color</u> data is encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.

35. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **34** further comprising decoding encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.

36. (Currently Amended)   A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a data bus in which stored pixel <u>color</u> data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM; and

a digital filter identifying protected pixel <u>color</u> data within the stored pixel <u>color</u> data, and modifying least significant bits of stored pixel <u>color</u> data prior to its arrival at the video RAM on the data bus, thereby generating modified pixel <u>color</u> data within which individual pixel locations are recognizable as having protected or

unprotected pixel <u>color</u> datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel <u>color</u> datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **36** wherein pixel <u>color</u> data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said digital filter sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel <u>color</u> data.

39. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **36** further comprising a video display device rendering pixel <u>color</u> data in the video RAM.

40. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **39** wherein said digital filter generates modified pixel <u>color</u> data that is visually similar to the stored pixel <u>color</u> data, when rendered on the video display device.

41. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **36** wherein the protected pixel <u>color</u> data is pixel <u>color</u> data for at least one protected digital image.

42. (Original)   The system of claim **41** further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

43. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **36** wherein the stored pixel <u>color</u> data is encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.

44. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **43** further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.

45. (Currently Amended)   A method for protecting pixel <u>color</u> data located in a video RAM from being copied, comprising:

providing pixel <u>color</u> data within a video RAM, the pixel <u>color</u> data being marked such that individual pixel <u>color</u> datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected;

recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel <u>color</u> datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel <u>color</u> datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations; and

replacing individual pixel <u>color</u> datum that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum, after an instruction to copy pixel <u>color</u> data from the video RAM is received.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM by a screen capture command.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM by copying screen data to a clipboard.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum is encrypted pixel <u>color</u> datum.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48 further comprising decoding encrypted pixel <u>color</u> data.

50. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting pixel <u>color</u> data stored in a video RAM from being copied, comprising:

a video RAM storing pixel <u>color</u> data that is marked such that individual pixel <u>color</u> datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected;

a data bus, in which pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory; and

a pixel processor recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel ~~data~~ <u>color datum</u>, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel <u>color</u> datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations, and replacing individual pixel <u>color</u> datum, that is recognized as being protected, with

substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum, after an instruction to copy pixel <u>color</u> data from the video RAM is received.

51. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **50** wherein the substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum is encrypted pixel datum.

52. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **51** further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted pixel <u>color</u> data.

53. (Currently Amended)   A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

modifying least significant bits of protected pixel <u>color</u> data so as to mark it as being protected;

thereafter transmitting stored pixel <u>color</u> data including the modified protected pixel <u>color</u> data from a computer memory to a video RAM;

after an instruction to copy pixel <u>color</u> data from the video RAM is received, recognizing individual pixel locations as having pixel <u>color</u> datum that is marked as being protected, without comparison to a template of pixel locations; and

replacing individual pixel <u>color</u> datum, that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **53** wherein pixel <u>color</u> data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said modifying sets the least significant bits of the blue color components of protected pixel <u>color</u> data.

56. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **53** further comprising rendering pixel <u>color</u> data in the video RAM on a video display device.

57. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **56** wherein said modifying generates modified protected pixel <u>color</u> data that is visually similar to the protected pixel <u>color</u> data, when rendered on the video display device.

58. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **53** wherein the pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM by a screen capture command.

59. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **53** wherein the pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM by a command to copy screen data to a clipboard.

60. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **53** wherein the protected pixel <u>color</u> data is pixel <u>color</u> data for at least one protected digital image.

61. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim **60** further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

62. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **53** wherein the substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum is encrypted pixel <u>color</u> datum.

63. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **62** further comprising decoding encrypted pixel <u>color</u> data.

64. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **53** wherein the protected pixel <u>color</u> data is encrypted protected pixel <u>color</u> data.

65. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim **64** further comprising decoding encrypted protected pixel <u>color</u> data.

66. (Currently Amended)   A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

      a first pixel processor modifying least significant bits of protected pixel <u>color</u> data so as to mark it as being protected;

      a first data bus in which stored pixel <u>color</u> data including the modified protected pixel <u>color</u> data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM;

a second data bus, in which pixel <u>color</u> data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory; and

a second pixel processor recognizing individual pixel locations as having pixel <u>color</u> datum that is marked as being protected, without comparison to a template of pixel locations, and replacing individual pixel <u>color</u> datum, that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel <u>color</u> datum, after an instruction to copy pixel <u>color</u> data from the video RAM is received.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **66** wherein pixel <u>color</u> data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said first pixel processor sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel <u>color</u> data.

69. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **66** further comprising a video display device for rendering pixel <u>color</u> data in the video RAM.

70. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **69** wherein said first pixel processor generates modified protected pixel <u>color</u> data that is visually similar to the protected pixel <u>color</u> data, when rendered on the video display device.

71. (Original)   The system of claim **66** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are distinct data busses.

72. (Original)   The system of claim **66** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are the same data bus.

73. (Original)   The system of claim **66** wherein said first pixel processor and said second pixel processor are distinct processors.

74. (Original)   The system of claim **66** wherein said first pixel processor and said second pixel processor are the same processors.

75. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **66** wherein the protected pixel color data is pixel <u>color</u> data for at least one protected digital image.

76. (Original)   The system of claim **75** further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

77. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **66** wherein the substitute pixel color datum is encrypted pixel <u>color</u> datum.

78. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **77** further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted pixel <u>color</u> data.

79. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **66** wherein the stored pixel <u>color</u> data is encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.

80. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim **79** further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted stored pixel <u>color</u> data.